

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 532

BY SENATORS HUNT, AZINGER, CHAPMAN, DEEDS,
HAMILTON, MAYNARD, PLYMALE, ROBERTS, RUCKER,
STOVER, STUART, TAYLOR, SMITH, KARNES, GRADY,
TRUMP, MARTIN, AND BARRETT

[Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary;
reported on February 7, 2023]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §15-12-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend
2 and reenact §49-6-609 of said code; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new
3 section, designated §61-8-32, all relating to the crime of solicitation of a minor for purposes
4 of sexual activity; establishing the essential element that the minor be at least four years
5 younger than the perpetrator; providing for enhanced penalties for second and subsequent
6 offenses; requiring registration as a sex offender for those convicted of the offense;
7 requiring designation of persons convicted of the offense to be an abusive parent where
8 factually appropriate; and establishing criminal penalties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 15. PUBLIC SAFETY.

ARTICLE 12. SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION ACT.

§15-12-2. Registration.

1 (a) The provisions of this article apply both retroactively and prospectively.

2 (b) Any person who has been convicted of an offense or an attempted offense or has
3 been found not guilty by reason of mental illness, mental retardation, or addiction of an offense
4 under any of the following provisions of this code or under a statutory provision of another state,
5 the United States Code or the Uniform Code of Military Justice which requires proof of the same
6 essential elements as the offenses set forth in subdivisions (1) through (8) of this subsection shall
7 register as set forth in §15-12-2(d) of this code and according to the internal management rules
8 promulgated by the superintendent under authority of §15-2-25 of this code:

9 (1) §61-8A-1 *et seq.* of this code;

10 (2) §61-8B-1 *et seq.* of this code, including the provisions of former §61-8B-6 of this code,
11 relating to the offense of sexual assault of a spouse, which was repealed by an act of the
12 Legislature during the 2000 legislative session;

13 (3) §61-8C-1 *et seq.* of this code;

- 14 (4) §61-8D-5 and §61-8D-6 of this code;
- 15 (5) §61-2-14(a) of this code;
- 16 (6) §61-8-6, §61-8-7, §61-8-12, and ~~§61-8-13~~ §61-8-32 of this code;
- 17 (7) §61-3C-14b of this code, as it relates to violations of those provisions of chapter 61
18 listed in this subsection; or
- 19 (8) §61-14-2, §61-14-5, and §61-14-6 of this code: *Provided*, That as to §61-14-2 of this
20 code only those violations involving human trafficking for purposes of sexual servitude require
21 registration pursuant to this subdivision.
- 22 (c) Any person who has been convicted of a criminal offense where the sentencing judge
23 made a written finding that the offense was sexually motivated shall also register as set forth in
24 this article.
- 25 (d) A person required to register under the provisions of this article shall register in person
26 at the West Virginia State Police detachment responsible for covering the county of his or her
27 residence, and in doing so, provide or cooperate in providing, at a minimum, the following when
28 registering:
- 29 (1) The full name of the registrant, including any aliases, nicknames, or other names used
30 by the registrant;
- 31 (2) The address where the registrant intends to reside or resides at the time of registration
32 and the address of any habitable real property owned or leased by the registrant that he or she
33 regularly visits: *Provided*, That a post office box may not be provided in lieu of a physical
34 residential address, the name and address of the registrant's employer or place of occupation at
35 the time of registration, the names and addresses of any anticipated future employers or places
36 of occupation, the name and address of any school or training facility the registrant is attending
37 at the time of registration, and the names and addresses of any schools or training facilities the
38 registrant expects to attend;
- 39 (3) The registrant's Social Security number;

- 40 (4) A full-face photograph of the registrant at the time of registration;
- 41 (5) A brief description of the crime or crimes for which the registrant was convicted;
- 42 (6) The registrant's fingerprints and palm prints;
- 43 (7) Information related to any motor vehicle, trailer, or motor home owned or regularly
44 operated by a registrant, including vehicle make, model, color, and license plate number:
45 *Provided*, That for the purposes of this article, the term "trailer" means travel trailer, fold-down
46 camping trailer, and house trailer as those terms are defined in §17A-1-1 of this code;
- 47 (8) Information relating to any Internet accounts the registrant has and the screen names,
48 usernames, or aliases the registrant uses on the Internet;
- 49 (9) Information related to any telephone or electronic paging device numbers that the
50 registrant has or uses, including, but not limited to, residential, work, and mobile telephone
51 numbers;
- 52 (10) A photocopy of a valid driver's license or government-issued identification card,
53 including a tribal identification card;
- 54 (11) A photocopy of any passport and immigration documents;
- 55 (12) A photocopy of any professional licensing information that authorizes the registrant
56 to engage in an occupation or carry out a trade or business; and
- 57 (13) Any identifying information, including make, model, serial number, and photograph,
58 regarding any unmanned aerial vehicle owned or operated by a registrant.
- 59 (e) (1) On the date that any person convicted or found not guilty by reason of mental
60 illness, mental retardation, or addiction of any of the crimes listed in §15-12-2(b) of this code,
61 hereinafter referred to as a "qualifying offense", including those persons who are continuing under
62 some post-conviction supervisory status, are released, granted probation or a suspended
63 sentence, released on parole, probation, home detention, work release, conditional release or
64 any other release from confinement, the Commissioner of Corrections, regional jail administrator,
65 city official, or sheriff operating a jail or Secretary of the Department of Health and Human

66 Resources who releases the person and any parole or probation officer who releases the person
67 or supervises the person following the release shall obtain all information required by §15-12-2(d)
68 of this code prior to the release of the person, inform the person of his or her duty to register, and
69 send written notice of the release of the person to the State Police within three business days of
70 receiving the information. The notice must include the information required by §15-12-2(d) of this
71 code. Any person having a duty to register for a qualifying offense shall register upon conviction,
72 unless that person is confined or incarcerated, in which case he or she shall register within three
73 business days of release, transfer, or other change in disposition status. Any person currently
74 registered who is incarcerated for any offense shall re-register within three business days of his
75 or her release.

76 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of this article to the contrary, a court of this state shall,
77 upon presiding over a criminal matter resulting in conviction or a finding of not guilty by reason of
78 mental illness, mental retardation, or addiction of a qualifying offense, cause, within 72 hours of
79 entry of the commitment or sentencing order, the transmittal to the sex offender registry for
80 inclusion in the registry all information required for registration by a registrant as well as the
81 following nonidentifying information regarding the victim or victims:

- 82 (A) His or her sex;
- 83 (B) His or her age at the time of the offense; and
- 84 (C) The relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.

85 The provisions of this subdivision do not relieve a person required to register pursuant to
86 this section from complying with any provision of this article.

87 (f) For any person determined to be a sexually violent predator, the notice required by
88 §15-12-2(d) of this code ~~must~~ shall also include:

- 89 (1) Identifying factors, including physical characteristics;
- 90 (2) History of the offense; and

91 (3) Documentation of any treatment received for the mental abnormality or personality
92 disorder.

93 (g) At the time the person is convicted or found not guilty by reason of mental illness,
94 mental retardation, or addiction in a court of this state of the crimes set forth in §15-12-2(b) of this
95 code, the person shall sign in open court a statement acknowledging that he or she understands
96 the requirements imposed by this article. The court shall inform the person so convicted of the
97 requirements to register imposed by this article and shall further satisfy itself by interrogation of
98 the defendant or his or her counsel that the defendant has received notice of the provisions of
99 this article and that the defendant understands the provisions. The statement, when signed and
100 witnessed, constitutes prima facie evidence that the person had knowledge of the requirements
101 of this article. Upon completion of the statement, the court shall provide a copy to the registry.
102 Persons who have not signed a statement under the provisions of this subsection and who are
103 subject to the registration requirements of this article must be informed of the requirement by the
104 State Police whenever the State Police obtain information that the person is subject to registration
105 requirements.

106 (h) The State Police shall maintain a central registry of all persons who register under this
107 article and shall release information only as provided in this article. The information required to
108 be made public by the State Police by §15-12-5(b)(2) of this code is to be accessible through the
109 Internet. Information relating to telephone or electronic paging device numbers a registrant has
110 or uses may not be released through the Internet.

111 (i) For the purpose of this article, “sexually violent offense” means:

112 (1) Sexual assault in the first degree as set forth in §61-8B-3 of this code, or of a similar
113 provision in another state, federal, or military jurisdiction;

114 (2) Sexual assault in the second degree as set forth §61-8B-4 of this code, or of a similar
115 provision in another state, federal, or military jurisdiction;

116 (3) Sexual assault of a spouse as set forth in the former provisions of §61-8B-6 of this
117 code, which was repealed by an act of the Legislature during the 2000 legislative session, or of a
118 similar provision in another state, federal, or military jurisdiction;

119 (4) Sexual abuse in the first degree as set forth in §61-8B-7 of this code, or of a similar
120 provision in another state, federal, or military jurisdiction;

121 (j) For purposes of this article, the term “sexually motivated” means that one of the
122 purposes for which a person committed the crime was for any person’s sexual gratification.

123 (k) For purposes of this article, the term “sexually violent predator” means a person who
124 has been convicted or found not guilty by reason of mental illness, mental retardation, or addiction
125 of a sexually violent offense and who suffers from a mental abnormality or personality disorder
126 that makes the person likely to engage in predatory sexually violent offenses.

127 (l) For purposes of this article, the term “mental abnormality” means a congenital or
128 acquired condition of a person that affects the emotional or volitional capacity of the person in a
129 manner that predisposes that person to the commission of criminal sexual acts to a degree that
130 makes the person a menace to the health and safety of other persons.

131 (m) For purposes of this article, the term “predatory act” means an act directed at a
132 stranger or at a person with whom a relationship has been established or promoted for the primary
133 purpose of victimization.

134 (n) For the purposes of this article, the term “business days” means days exclusive of
135 Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays as defined in §2-2-1 of this code.

136 (o) A person required to register pursuant to this section shall pay an annual fee of \$75
137 when not incarcerated, to be paid between January 1 and June 30 of each year. The fee shall be
138 collected and used by the State Police to defray costs associated with monitoring sex offenders:
139 Provided, That failure to pay the annual fee under this subsection shall not be considered a
140 violation of the person’s probation, parole, or supervised release: *Provided, however, That notice*
141 by the State Police that the annual fee has not been paid may be recorded in the office of the

142 clerk of the county commission where the person is required to register resides. The notice shall
143 have the force and effect of a judgment and shall be recorded and indexed by the clerk in the
144 judgment lien docket.

CHAPTER 49. CHILD WELFARE.

ARTICLE 4. COURT ACTIONS.

§49-4-609. Conviction for offenses against children.

1 In any case where a person is convicted of an offense against a child described in §61-8-
2 12 and §61-8-32 of this code, or §61-8B-1 *et seq.*, or §61-8D-1 *et seq.* of this code and the person
3 has custodial, visitation, or other parental rights to the child who is the victim of the offense or to
4 any child who resides in the same household as the victim, the court shall, at the time of
5 sentencing, find that the person is an abusing parent within the meaning of this chapter as to the
6 child victim, and may find that the person is an abusing parent as to any child who resides in the
7 same household as the victim, and the court shall take further steps ~~as are~~ required by this article.

CHAPTER 61. CRIMES AND THEIR PUNISHMENT.

ARTICLE 8. CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY, MORALITY AND DECENCY.

§61-8-32. Soliciting a minor; penalties.

1 (a) Any person 18 years of age and older who solicits a minor, who is at least four years
2 younger than him or her to engage in any sexual activity or sexual conduct with the minor which
3 constitutes a felony under this code, is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be
4 fined not more than \$5,000, or imprisoned in a state correctional facility not less than two nor
5 more than 10 years, or both fined and imprisoned.

6 (b) Notwithstanding the penalty provision in subsection (a) of this section, for a second
7 and subsequent violations of subsection (a), the penalty shall be imprisonment in a state
8 correctional facility for not more than 20 years, or a fine of not more than \$25,000, or both
9 imprisonment and fine.